

CLAIMS

1. A rigid pipe of varying length (1) characterized in that half-cylinder shaped elements (2) are hinged (3) to each other and that two of such "chains" oriented with their concave sides are connected together in a zipper-like motion and are locked (4) to each other with the intention of preventing the pipe (1) from coming apart/becoming deformed under a load.
2. The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the two half-cylinder shaped chains are individually rolled up into two spools (13).
3. The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the elements (2) have threads (8) and are driven out/in of the housing (12) of a rotating drive unit.
4. The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the elements have teeth and are driven out/in of the housing (12) with the help of the rack-and-pinion principle.
5. The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the elements (2) have a smooth surface whereby rollers or chains are pressed against the elements and drive the pipe out/in of the housing by the help of friction.
6. The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the elements (2) have a smooth surface and are driven out/in of the housing (12) by the help of an active spool arrangement (5).
7. The device according to one or more of the preceding claims characterized in that a guide (6) forces together the two chains in a zipper-like motion.
8. The device according to one more of the preceding claims characterized in that a drive unit (7) (motor) drives the pipe out/in of the housing (12).
9. The device according to one or more of the preceding claims characterized in that the half-cylinder shaped chains elements (2) are reinforced with internal cross walls (10) and/or longitudinal ribs (11) in order to increase the mechanical strength of the assembled pipe (1).

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10. The device according to one or more of the preceding claims characterized in that the half-cylinder shaped chain elements (2) have a groove/slot (9) that is maneuvered into the guide (6) to prevent rotation of the pipe (1).
 11. The device according to one or more the preceding claims characterized in that the pipe terminates in a sleeve coupling (14) capable of receiving instrumentation/external equipment with free access to a cable etc. through the pipe (1).
 12. The device according to one or more the preceding claims characterized in that the elements (2) are hinged together manually (fig. 4) and are similarly locked (4) to the opposing element in a zipper-like motion.